

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 11743 041031Z

12
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 JUSE-00 SEC-01 OMB-01

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R 040923Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1357
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS TOKYO 11743

E.OM 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, JA
SUBJECT: TENSE LOCKHEED MOOD

REF: TOKYO 11604

SUMMARY: THERE HAS NOT BEEN A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE
LOCKHEED CASE DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS BUT, AS EVERYONE
WAITS FOR THE NEXT ARRESTS, THE MOOD IN POLITICAL CIRCLES
HAS BECOME PALPABLY EXASPERATED AND TENSE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON AUGUST 3, TAKEO KIMURA, A LEADER OF THE TANAKA
FACTION, LOUDLY CRITICIZED PRIME MINISTER MIKI FOR ARRESTING A
FORMER PRIME MINISTER IN THE FIRST PLACE AND THEN NOT
PARDONING HIM. THE BITTERNESS OF THE CRITICISM FROM
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 11743 041031Z

THE TANAKA CAMP WAS ECHOED IN SIMILAR CHARGES FROM

MEMBERS OF THE SHIINA AND FUKUDA FACTIONS AT AN INFORMAL PARTY-WIDE MEETING OF MIDDLE-RANKING AND YOUNGER CONSERVATIVES AT LDP HEADQUARTERS ON THE SAME DAY. THE MEETING WAS ONE OF A SERIES BY THE GROWING ANTI-MIKI GROUP. AT THE MEETING A FISTFIGHT BROKE OUT WHEN A TANAKA FACTION DIETMAN TOOK EXCEPTION TO A MIKI MAN'S STATEMENT THAT THE ARREST OF TANAKA HAD BEEN APPLAUDED BY THE PEOPLE. THE COMBATANTS DID NOT INJURE EACH OTHER BUT DID, IRONICALLY, ROUGH UP AN OHIRA FACTION MAN WHO TRIED TO SEPARATE THEM.

2. ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE TENSION WAS MIKI'S SHARP REACTION TO THE UNGUARDED REMARKS AND COY HINTS ABOUT THE LOCKHEED INVESTIGATIONS THAT JUSTICE MINISTER INABA HAS BEEN MAKING DURING RECENT SPEAKING TRIPS AROUND THE COUNTRY. IN PUBLICLY UPBRAIDING HIM MIKI SAID; "INABA SAYS SILLY THINGS...HE MUST BE CAREFUL ABOUT HIS WORDS AND DEEDS."

3. THERE ARE ALSO SIGNS OF STRAIN IN THE OPPOSITION CAMP. AS REFTEL REPORTED, LAST WEEK JCP CHAIRMAN MIYAMOTO ACCUSED ALL THE OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES OF TAKING LDP MONEY IN EXCHANGE FOR COOPERATION IN THE DIET. THE COMMUNIST PETARD MAY, HOWEVER, TURN OUT TO BE OF THE SELF-HOISTING VARIETY. ON AUGUST 1 A SOCIALIST SPOKESMAN REPLIED TO THE CHARGE BY RESURRECTING THE MIYAMOTO AFFAIR. (MIYAMOTO WAS CHARGED BEFORE THE WAR WITH MURDERING A POLICE INFORMER.) PUBLICIZING THE CASE IS A HANDY WAY FOR THE SOCIALISTS TO DISCREDIT THE COMMUNISTS' RECENT ATTEMPTS TO SOFTEN THEIR IMAGE.

4. THE PROSECUTORS HAVE AS USUAL BEEN HARD AT WORK. THIS WEEK THEY ISSUED THE EXPECTED FOREIGN EXCHANGE LAW INDICTMENTS AGAINST MARUBEN'S HIYAMA AND ANA'S WATANABE AND HAVE SUGGESTED THEY NOW FEEL ABLE TO INDICT TANAKA ON BRIBERY-CUM-MALFEASANCE CHARGES INSTEAD OF ONLY ON SIMPLE BRIBE-TAKING. THEY HAVE SCHEDULED A GRAND STRATEGY MEETING OF SENIOR PROSECUTORS FOR AUGUST 6 TO DISCUSS FURTHER INDICT-
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PAGE 03 TOKYO 11743 041031Z

MENTS. THE PROSECUTORS HAVE ALSO BEEN INVESTIGATING THE SUICIDE OF TANAKA'S DRIVER-SECRETARY WHO WAS FOUND DEAD IN HIS CAR ON AUGUST 2 AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM TWO DAYS OF QUESTIONING. BUT WHAT PROSECUTORS HAVE NOT YET DONE IS WHAT EVERYONE IS WAITING SO TENSELY FOR THEM TO DO--ARREST MORE POLITICIANS. SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CORRUPTION, AIRCRAFT SALES, INVESTIGATIONS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO11743
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760300-0163
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760886/aaaacxnz.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TOKYO 11604
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TENSE LOCKHEED MOOD
TAGS: PINT, JA, US, LOCKHEED, (TANAKA, KIICHI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006